

New Ferris wheel is here to help **4**

Cubs, do this before spring training **10**



GETTY IMAGES

Monday
JANUARY

IN PLAIN SIGHT

AS ATTITUDES TOWARD MARIJUANA CHANGE,
SOME RECREATIONAL POT SMOKERS IN CHICAGO
FEEL COMFORTABLE PUFFING AWAY IN PUBLIC **6-7**

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM



EAT

CHILI FEST

Rockit Bar & Grill

22 W. Hubbard St. 312-645-6000

Warm up with a bowl of black bean and chorizo chili as part of the annual event, which serves up a new take on the classic comfort food every day through Friday. \$14.

NATIONAL SOUP MONTH

Chez Moi

2100 N. Halsted St. 773-871-2100

The Lincoln Park restaurant celebrates all month long by offering a flight of four soups: cauliflower cream with cumin, lobster bisque, mushroom and French onion. 5-10 p.m. \$9.95.

DRINK

SAUGATUCK BEER RELEASE

Jerry's

5419 N. Clark St.
773-796-3777

Try the Michigan brewery's new Blueberry Maple stout along with Singapore IPA and Snow Wizard oak-aged imperial brown ale and potentially snag a pint glass through a give-away. 7-10 p.m. No cover.

CH DISTILLERY TASTING DINNER

Uncommon Ground

1401 W. Devon Ave. 773-465-9801

A three-course dinner with cocktail pairings includes a blood orange-basil gimlet, a vodka martini, grass-fed tri-tip steak and a banana-peanut butter cream-stuffed churro. 6 p.m. \$44.98. Tickets: brownpaper tickets.com

DO



ILLINOIS RESIDENT DISCOUNT DAYS

Chicago History Museum 1601 N. Clark St. 312-642-4600

Tour the museum's exhibits on local authors, the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and more during January and February, when Illinois residents get in for free on weekdays. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

3-DAY FORECAST



MONDAY

38° 27°

Drizzle



TUESDAY

37° 27°

Flurries



WEDNESDAY

29° 22°

Some sun

HAPPY HOUR OF THE DAY

Kick (1943 W. Byron St. 773-236-8886) offers half-price appetizers, \$5 draft beer and \$7 draft wine from 4-6 p.m.

- 361 W. ERIE -

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Eat, Drink, Do's weekly look at a month's worth of sports, tunes, foodie and boozy fun and more

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>24</p> <p>BUZZED SPELLING BEE AT ELBO ROOM 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549</p> <p>Be one of the first 20 to sign up and compete while sipping \$3 PBR and \$5 PBR with a shot of whiskey. 8 p.m. No cover.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>BUZZED SPELLING BEE AT ELBO ROOM 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549</p> <p>Be one of the first 20 to sign up and compete while sipping \$3 PBR and \$5 PBR with a shot of whiskey. 8 p.m. No cover.</p>	<p>26</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>BABES IN TOYLAND AT CONCORD MUSIC HALL 2047 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-570-4000</p> <p>If you didn't get to see them at Riot Fest, here's your chance. 7 p.m. \$25-\$30. Tickets: clubtix.com</p>	<p>29</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>POLAR PLUNGE AT OAK STREET BEACH 1000 N. Lake Shore Drive</p> <p>Go for a swim in Lake Michigan and help families in need. Arrive by 11 a.m. Plunge at noon. \$30-\$40. Register: lakeviewpolarbearclub.com</p>
<p>31</p> <p>DATING FOR NERDS AT FOUR STAR LOUNGE 2666 N. Halsted St. 855-637-3568</p> <p>A destiny-themed mixer includes trivia, prizes and drink specials. 5-8 p.m. \$30. Registration required: nerdsatheart.com</p>	<p>1</p> <p>LOST IN THE WOODS AT STUDIO MANARCHY 656 W. Hubbard St.</p> <p>Sample three New Belgium sour beers paired with food from Bang Bang Pie Shop and The Chop Shop. 6-9 p.m. \$52.24. Tickets: eventbrite.com</p>	<p>2</p> <p>SECRETS, LIES & ALIBIS AT ELBO ROOM 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549</p> <p>The monthly show combines stand-up, sketch and musical comedy. Themed cocktails are \$5. 8:30 p.m., doors open at 8 p.m. \$5 suggested donation.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>LOST IN THE WOODS AT STUDIO MANARCHY 656 W. Hubbard St.</p> <p>Sample three New Belgium sour beers paired with food from Bang Bang Pie Shop and The Chop Shop. 6-9 p.m. \$52.24. Tickets: eventbrite.com</p>
<p>7</p> <p>SUPER BOWL TAILGATE AT BAR TOMA 110 E. Pearson St. 312-266-3110</p> <p>Watch the game on 22 TVs while grazing on wings, pasta and pizza. Stay until the final play for the chance to win Cubs opening day tickets. 5 p.m. \$30.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>GRAND RE-OPENING PARTY AT MR. & MRS. DIGZ 1770 W. Berteau Ave. 773-447-8527</p> <p>The boutique celebrates its move from Andersonville to Ravenswood with drinks, appetizers, a DJ and a raffle. 5-8 p.m. Free.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>MY BLOODY CLAW-ENTINE AT LOGAN SQUARE AUDITORIUM 2539 N. Kedzie Ave. 773-809-4782</p> <p>Bet on your favorite costumed wrestlers and bribe the referees at the benefit for Sideshow Theatre Company, which also features live music from She's Crafty and a raffle. 9:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. Tickets: claw.org</p>
<p>14</p> <p>VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE AND WINE PAIRING AT KATHERINE ANNE CONFECTIONS 2745 W. Armitage Ave. 773-245-1630</p> <p>Try eight varietals from Candid Wines each paired with two sweets, plus cheese and charcuterie from Table, Donkey and Stick. 5:30-7 p.m. \$65. Tickets: katherine-anne.com</p>	<p>15</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>WASTED PAGES READING AT CHICAGO PUBLISHERS RESOURCE CENTER 858 N. Ashland Ave.</p> <p>Hear works from the non-profit's writing workshops and learn how you can get involved in upcoming programs at this BYOB show. 7 p.m. \$5.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>VINTAGE BEER FEST AT DELILAH'S 2771 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-472-2771</p> <p>Sample more than 100 beers from over 50 breweries including Three Floyds, Pipeworks and Goose Island at the 19th annual fest. Noon-5 p.m. \$20.</p>

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6 perks of the big new Navy Pier Ferris wheel



The Second City
NETWORK

Liz Kozak

» @TheSecondCity

Chicago! We did it! As a unified force, we came together. To celebrate the tearing down of an out-of-date, failed infrastructure. To rebuild from the ashes. To create something bigger. Something grander. Something for all of us. Or at least, the ones of us who are willing to pay

the steep tourist trap parking fees.

Yep, we tore down the perfectly fine old Navy Pier Ferris wheel to begin construction on a bigger one that will reach 196 feet in the air. Here's all the fun we can look forward to having once it opens later this spring.

Create shelter for the homeless. The new wheel will be outfitted with 42 enclosed, temperature-controlled "gondolas" (that's fancy-talk for "teeny clubhouses") that can accommodate 10 people who will be able to ride year-round, no matter the weather. Meanwhile, most of the city's homeless shelters are at capacity. Families who sleep underneath LSD's Lawrence overpass would be well served by a night high among the stars, the gentle glow of Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.'s top-hatted crustacean reminding them that these warm escape pods are actually meant for people who will never actually eat the overpriced leftovers they're pretending they're really gonna schlep back to the overpriced hotel.

Provide a really neat view for our nation's leaders. Sarah Palin might have mocked President Obama by suggesting he'll be back in Chicago in a year to go back to community organizing, but let's hope she and Donald Trump visit sooner than that. Hey, Donald! You'll be able to get a killer view of Trump Tower. Yes, we know that your building stands more than 1,100 feet taller than this puny

1,000,000-pound wheel. What's that, Ex-Governor? You betcha you can see Russia from the top! Gee, I hope the operating gear doesn't somehow malfunction and keep you guys stuck up there forever and ever and ever ...

Take our culinary capabilities to new heights. Innovative foodie hotspot Next recently debuted its latest "experience." The Alps! Yum! You know what would be really cool? Eating that \$165 stone soup and char charred atop a Swedish candle (that's real) from the altitude of an actual, um, Alp. You'll shut down everyone else on your Yelp app when you yelp about your Alp apps!

Give Cubs fans a new vantage point for a hot minute. It's not a rooftop seat. It's a city-top seat. And it's one the Ricketts family doesn't own (yet). But at the rate Wrigleyville property sales are going, we'll be bringing our grandkids to ride the Tommy Wheel at Ricketts Pier after visiting Build-a-Cub Workshop.

Give CPS students something they're already used to. Teacher strikes. "Safe" passage routes. Hundreds of millions in budget cuts. Threats of bankruptcy. The certainty of instability. CPS students have been on a metaphorical roller coaster for years now—why not just give them a literal ride for once? Maybe throw in some cotton candy, too. After all, they're just kids.

Take Chicago's North and South labels even further. We don't have to limit ourselves anymore with just regular old compass directions. Thanks to the sky-high reaches of the new Ferris wheel, our city will be able to divide itself even more drastically by aligning with either the Heaven Side or the Hell Side, the latter of which will be personally dug by our city's leaders and government officials. I wonder if the glass on those enclosed gondolas is bulletproof? Betcha it is.

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GETTY IMAGES

POT IN PUBLIC

CHICAGO SMOKERS TALK ABOUT THROWING CAUTION TO THE WIND, LIGHTING UP IN THE OPEN

By Michael Lansu | FOR REDEYE

If you walk around enough in this city, it's happened to you: You're padding down a sidewalk on Milwaukee Avenue, earbuds in, just minding your own business, when the pungent smell of pot fills your nostrils. You turn on a dime just to see who is the bold soul puffing in public.

While there's no data to suggest smoking weed in public is on the rise, many people are doing it. A decline in cigarette smoking combined with the harsher marijuana on the market these days may just make it more noticeable.

Attitudes, too, have changed with many states across the country decriminalizing the drug. In Illinois, medical marijuana is legal—with the first depositories opening up late last year—but recreational use is not.

A recent New York Times article about this

very issue noted that some New Yorkers felt "more secure" these days about lighting up in public.

Andrew, a 35-year-old Bucktown resident who first got busted for smoking pot in public at age 12, said the attitude toward using the drug in public depends on the neighborhood, but he believes the overall attitude toward pot use has changed in recent years.

"The stigma of marijuana is kind of going away," said Andrew, who said he's able to balance his pot-smoking with a busy work schedule. "It's not like some lazy stoner. People are starting to realize that pot isn't bad for you, or that I'm not just going to sit on the couch all day. I smoke all day, and I go work out. It's not people with some hippie shirt on and watching cartoons all day."

Despite the threat of a fine, or even jail time,

many recreational pot smokers say they do not fear smoking the drug in public. Those RedEye talked to for this article say they do not hold doctor-approved medical marijuana cards allowing them to use the drug for medicinal purposes. They also didn't want their last names used for this story, fearing retribution from an employer or that they'd upset their families.

Andrew says he regularly walks around Bucktown, Logan Square and Wicker Park smoking marijuana from a one-hitter.

"When I'm walking past a bar and take a hit, people almost seem more offended by the cigarette smokers," Andrew said.

Kathleen Kane-Willis, director of the Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy at Roosevelt University, said there are no statistics that show more people have gotten bolder about smoking pot in public.

However, Zach, a 23-year-old Humboldt Park resident and bar back, says he smokes marijuana on busy sidewalks regularly and has never been stopped by police.

"I'm totally cool with smoking weed in public at this point. ... And when you are a white guy, you don't fear it," Zach said. "I'll take a hit from a one-hitter outside of work in front of cops, and I've never once been confronted about it."

In 2012, Chicago granted police officers the power to decide if somebody carrying less than 15 grams of marijuana should be ticketed or arrested—a move that has been much criticized by those noting a discrepancy in the rate whites are ticketed compared with blacks and Hispanics.

According to Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy data, the mostly black communities on

I'M TOTALLY
COOL WITH
SMOKING
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PUBLIC AT
THIS POINT.
...AND WHEN
YOU ARE A
WHITE GUY,
YOU DON'T
FEAR IT."

—Zach, 23-year-old Humboldt Park resident

the South and West sides had the highest number of marijuana arrests.

Kane-Willis thinks marijuana today has a stronger smell, which may give some the impression that more people are lighting up on the streets. She also suggests the public is more accustomed to the smell of pot and can identify it more easily.

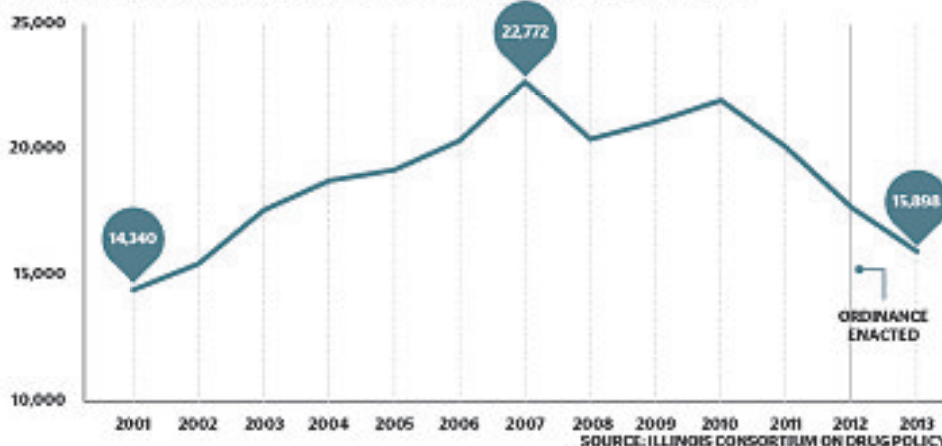
"We have seen much more specialization in strains in the past 10 years that are much more potent-smelling," Kane-Willis said. "When talking about the marijuana markets now, the type of marijuana people are purchasing is more potent, powerful, stinky. If someone was smoking in the 1980s, it wouldn't be as pungent or recognizable."

The lack of cigarette smoke now also makes marijuana smoke more noticeable, Kane-Willis said. Fewer than 17 percent of adults smoke cigarettes now, down from more than 42 percent in 1965, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"As cigarette smoking decreases, the smoke you see is more likely to be marijuana," Kane-Willis said. "It could feel more noticeable when creating new laws around smoking cigarettes. When you see somebody light up, you are going to notice it more. ... It might create the perception that there are more people

CHICAGO MARIJUANA MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS

In 2012, Chicago enacted a ticket ordinance decriminalizing possession of pot in small amounts and giving police the option to issue citations instead of arresting offenders. The number of misdemeanor arrests for marijuana had steadily been decreasing since 2010.



doing it because it is stronger, it can carry further and there is more."

Smoking pot in public is easier to get away with in some neighborhoods than it is in others—especially if you are black or Hispanic.

Keith, a 42-year-old black man from the West Side, said he doesn't smoke marijuana in public because he believes police will stop him because of his race.

"We don't smoke weed in public, unless it is around our house. ... We will drive around and smoke, that way you can get away from the police—and fast," said Keith, a bouncer. "Police will stop us every time. We don't even have to be smoking weed, we can just be walking and they're going to stop us because they smell it or just because we are black."

MICHAEL LANSU IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. @MIKELANSU

Less security, lower costs for local marijuana dispensaries?

By John Byrne | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Medical marijuana dispensary owners in Chicago would be spared the requirement of hiring security guards to be on-site around the clock in a move aldermen framed as a way to help drive down costs.

The City Council Finance Committee approved the amendment Wednesday, paving the way for the full council to vote next month on the plan to require guards at the dispensaries only when they're open for business.

Sponsor Ald. Edward Burke (14th) said that since the dispensaries opened last year, they haven't made as much money as some thought they would.

"The industry has, as you might expect, not been as successful as was originally anticipated," Burke said. "And this would hopefully reduce some of the burden on the operators without interfering with what our intent originally was, and that was to make sure there's security on premises during the time they're operating."

Medical marijuana advocates have mounted a petition drive to try to persuade Gov. Rauner to greatly expand the program, a campaign driven in part by industry officials who say the businesses won't survive without more than the current 4,000 patients statewide.

Rauner has not given indication that he will consider making more medical conditions eligible for the trial program. The governor has until Feb. 1 to render a decision on eight qualifying medical conditions recommended by the state Medical Cannabis Advisory Board, according to advocates. Previously, Rauner vetoed bills to expand the trial program and to decriminalize marijuana in general, instead calling for more conservative steps.

Ald. Tom Tunney (44th) voted against the amendment, saying residents in his ward have been pushing hard for the strongest possible security rules for a dispensary planned for the area.

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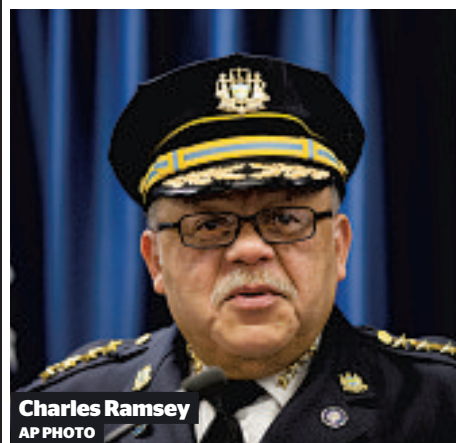


Snow is cleared Sunday near a street vendor's location on New York's Times Square. **AP PHOTO**

EAST COAST BEGINS DIGGING OUT

A massive snowstorm brought both the nation's capital and its largest city to a stop, dumping as much as 3 feet of snow and stranding tens of thousands of travelers along the East Coast. At least 29 deaths were blamed on the weather, resulting from car crashes, shoveling snow, hypothermia and more.

The air travel picture remained complicated after nearly 12,000 weekend flights were canceled. Flight cancellations for Monday stood at more than 800 as of early Sunday evening, and 50 flights had been canceled for Tuesday, according to flight tracking website FlightAware. **—AP**



Charles Ramsey
AP PHOTO

Former cop returns to advise CPD on civil rights reforms

Mayor Emanuel announced Sunday that a Chicago native once passed over for top cop will return to help guide civil rights reforms in the Chicago Police Department. Recently retired Philadelphia police Commissioner **Charles Ramsey**, an architect of the Chicago department's community policing program, will return to advise city leaders on policies, training and accountability when it comes to the use of force, interactions with people with mental illness and community policing, the city said in a statement Sunday. Ramsey lost bids in 1992 and 1998 to become police superintendent. **—CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Man shot to death at McCormick Place hotel

A 25-year-old man was shot to death inside a Hyatt Regency hotel at McCormick Place in the South Loop early Saturday, police said. Courtney Taylor, of the 1600 block of South Paulina Street, was in a group of several men during a birthday party in the hotel lobby when a male attacker pulled out a gun and fired shots, police said. Taylor suffered multiple gunshot wounds, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office. He was pronounced dead at the scene. No one was in custody as of Sunday afternoon. **—CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Loyola student recovering after being shot

A Loyola University student shot in Rogers Park on Friday night is recovering from her injuries, her family and school officials said. Chicago police said the 19-year-old woman was walking with friends in the 6700 block of North Clark Street about 9:15 p.m. when someone in a passing car fired shots at the group. The woman was struck in the lower back. The area of the shooting is about 1 mile northwest of the Loyola campus. **—CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



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6 THINGS THE CUBS MUST DO BEFORE SPRING TRAINING

By Paul M. Banks | FOR REDEYE

It may be the offseason, but the Cubs still have a massive to-do list to address before spring training. Pitchers and catchers report Feb. 19, so the end to another harsh Chicago winter will be here before you know it.

"We've got a lot on our plate at the moment," Crane Kenney, Cubs president of business operations, said at the recent Cubs Convention. Let's break down the winter agenda for the North Siders.

1. Embrace the role of World Series favorites

Usually, archrival St. Louis is the hunted in the NL Central. Not in 2016. Sports betting website Bovada gives the Cubs 6-1 odds to win the World Series, tops in MLB.

"We're not sneaking up on anybody," current Cub and former Cardinals outfielder Jason Heyward said. "The odds are going to be against every other team that comes in here, and that's what's fun about baseball."

2. Integrate the new players

The Cubs retain their stellar young nucleus from a team that won 97 games last year and add Heyward, Ben Zobrist, Adam Warren

and John Lackey. Fans are especially fired up for Heyward and Lackey; both defected from St. Louis. Overall, the Cubs upgraded their pitching and plugged a few holes since bowing out of the postseason.

3. Secure the Cy Young winner

Last year the Cubs relived 1984, in a good way. That year was the first to see three Cubs claim major National League awards. They achieved another trifecta in 2015, including Jake Arrieta's Cy Young honor. The ace of all NL aces will now see a hefty pay raise via arbitration. Arrieta's agent seeks \$13 million while the Cubs pitched \$7.5 million.

"I know the spread seems big, but the filing numbers don't always represent the offers," Cubs president of baseball operations Theo Epstein said. "If we go to a hearing, we go to a hearing. We think he had a historic season; we think he deserves a huge raise."

4. Adjust to the Wrigley Field renovations

The Cubs feel fans' pain regarding Wrigley concourse congestion. They're adding a western gate to alleviate the logjam. Kenney recently updated the media on the 1060 Project,

saying the clubhouse is on the verge of completion.

"The bleachers will be finished opening day," Kenney said. "There's all sorts of structural work that's going which isn't really sexy or fun, but it's really necessary for the next round of improvements. It's a little less dramatic for the fans, [but] far more dramatic for the players in 2016."

Of course, we've heard "the bleachers will be finished by opening day" before, and it didn't work out that way. 2017 is the year that will be "dramatic" for fans. That's when the ballpark hotel and party zone and entertainment areas are scheduled to open.

5. Lock up the architects

The contracts of both Epstein and general manager Jed Hoyer are up at the end of 2016. October was a testament to their rebuilding efforts. Sure, I'm being Captain Obvious here, but owner Tom Ricketts needs to keep this dynamic duo in town.

"I see myself as staying in the exact same role for a very long time," Epstein said. "I think Tom sees it the same way; we're completely on the same page. I imagine once my deal is done, Jed's will follow in short order."

6. Make new fans feel welcome

The recent Cubs Convention was the most electric in the event's 31-year history.

"It's been awesome, we haven't seen a convention like this before," Lackey said. "Y'all turned up for this deal, it's been special."

As incessant erectile dysfunction pill advertising in October indicates, baseball is huge with baby boomers. However, this young, exciting Cubs team strikes a chord with Millennials, too. The upcoming season will feature a new way for anybody attached to their smartphone to watch the team play.

"I'm finally pretty confident that we're going to have streaming in 2016, so that local games will be available on our mobile devices," Kenney said.

The final box to check on the Cubs to-do list is "Win World Series," but we'll revisit that in October.

"We have a team that's ready to roll into spring training," Epstein said. "And every player who had to watch the Mets celebrate on our field is extraordinarily hungry to win eight more games in October than they did last year."

PAUL M. BANKS IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. @PAULMBANKS



Peyton Manning
AP PHOTO

Denver headed to Super Bowl 50

After a valiant but ultimately failed attempt to nab two more points to tie the game and force overtime, the Patriots fell to the Broncos and their solid defense on Sunday, sending **Peyton Manning** to his fourth Super Bowl. Regardless of your thoughts on the Patriots, spare a kind thought for their kicker Stephen Gostkowski, whose missed extra-point attempt in the first quarter was his first since 2006, after an NFL-record 523 straight makes. Ouch. Get the scoop on Carolina-Arizona at redeyechicago.com.

THE MOUTHWATCH

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7 p.m. CSN

—**Derrick Rose**, after the Bulls' 96-83 win over LeBron and the Cavaliers on Saturday, on the team's lack of consistency. Since their six-game winning streak ended Jan. 7, the Bulls haven't been able to string together consecutive wins.



TWITTER

Snow worries

A pair of Cubs didn't let 28 inches of snow prevent them from picking up their awards in New York City on Saturday. Although NL Manager of the Year Joe Maddon couldn't make it, **Kris Bryant** and Jake Arrieta suited up for the Baseball Writers' Association of America Awards Dinner, where they were honored as NL Rookie of the Year and NL Cy Young award winner, respectively. "I've never seen anything like this," Bryant, who was born in Las Vegas, said of the snow as he accepted his award, according to MLB.com. "I'm enjoying it, although I'm sure you New Yorkers aren't."

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Somehow, De Niro doing Ice Cube karaoke works



FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

» mpais@redeye
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Please, please let's put a moratorium on k.d. lang jokes. They're all kinds of stale and not funny. Really, if you just have to write a lesbian-related line into your comedy, come up with something else.

OK, lecture over. Believe it or not, "Dirty Grandpa" rejuvenates the on-screen

concept of the horny, foulmouthed senior citizen. In fact, it amazingly combines three movies I didn't like ("Bad Grandpa," "Sex Drive," "Tammy") into one I sort of did.

As the titular walking hard-on, Robert De Niro really goes for it, and it's an accomplishment that the veteran actor naming all the members of Wu-Tang and rapping Ice Cube's "It Was a Good Day" comes off as appealing instead of desperate. Dick (De Niro)—bonus

points for zero jokes about his name, though there are approximately 78 other penis jokes—has just lost his wife, and he isn't going to let his grandson Jason's (Zac Efron) impending wedding prevent the two from driving from Atlanta to Daytona Beach. It's what Dick, who says, "I want to [bleep] until my dick falls off," claims his wife would have wanted.

Among the many smart—wait, "smart" isn't the word here; let's go with "decent"—decisions made by first-time writer John Phillips (who's also co-writing "Bad Santa 2," as the guy clearly has a type) is that Dick and Jason have no trouble getting to the destination. It's not a movie that takes forever to get where it's going. And the sideline characters are a stitch: Aubrey Plaza plays against type as a sexually aggressive party girl; Adam Pally makes a great worst cousin ever; and Jason Mantzoukas ensures that the inevitable drug-dealer-who-turns-up-everywhere is a welcome source of nonsense instead of an irritant.

Likewise, "Dirty Grandpa" and Dick are



Zac Efron (left) and Robert De Niro in 'Dirty Grandpa'

★★★★★
DIRTY GRANDPA
R

What do you think?

Email mpais@redeyechicago.com when you see a movie and explain why you think he got it right or got it wrong. Once a month we'll publish some of the letters. Note: Commentary including profanity or any other offensive material will not be considered.

unexpectedly likable, though Jason clearly hating his uptight fiancée (Julianne Hough) and hitting it off with an old photography

classmate (Zoey Deutch) reeks of the stereotypical demonization of the nag and the romanticization of the cool girl. You wish you could just fast-forward through the whole subplot, and same goes for scenes involving, uh, well ... let's just say "stuffed animal crotch grab" and "penis swastika" and leave it at that.

Through it all, though, is a mix of laughs and guffaws and snorts that neither makes you proud of yourself nor makes you regret giving this fluff a shot.

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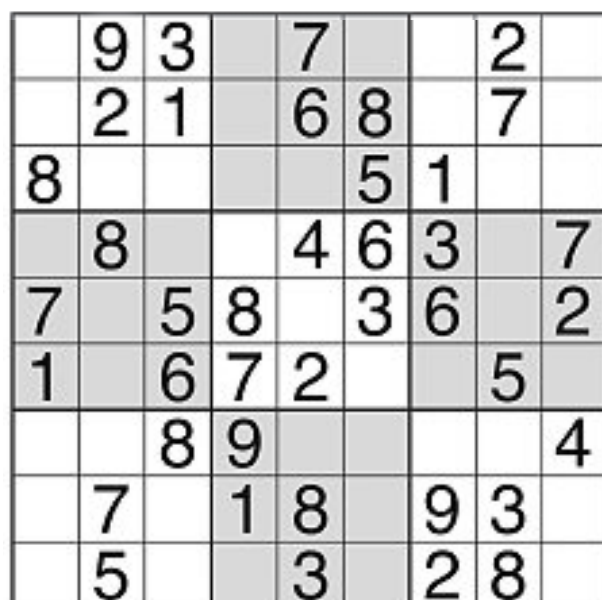
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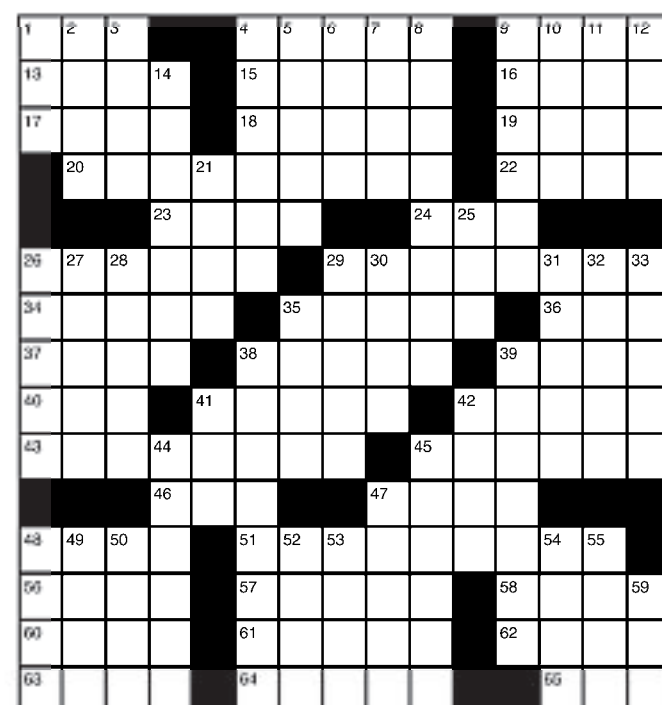


ACROSS

- 1 Make clothing
- 4 Actor Roberts
- 9 Chronic lung disease, for short
- 13 Seldom seen
- 15 Home
- 16 Hideous
- 17 Night twinkler
- 18 Not King and Natalie
- 19 Genealogist's drawing
- 20 Most spine-chilling
- 22 Pencil's core
- 23 Twofold
- 24 Whopper
- 25 Like jacuzzi waters
- 26 Machines connected to computers
- 34 Rotates
- 35 Beverage
- 36 Hula dancer's neckwear
- 37 Picture card
- 38 Taking to court
- 39 Male children
- 40 ... out a living; get by
- 41 Gave a monetary penalty to
- 42 Dada
- 43 Abandoned
- 45 Seldom
- 46 Rauls or Dobbs
- 47 Peddle
- 48 Command to a horse
- 51 Habit-forming
- 56 Stack
- 57 Razz
- 58 ... as a pin
- 60 Annoys
- 61 Lisa Marie's dad
- 62 Curve in glass
- 63 Sit for an artist
- 64 Tries to lose
- 65 Bashful

DOWN

- 1 Fathers of Jrs.
- 2 Polishes off
- 3 Shawl or cape
- 4 Wild dog
- 5 As sore as ...
- 6 White fish
- 7 Some of the works of
- 8 Keats
- 9 Baby bird
- 10 Slice of veal



- 10 Murder
- 11 Entirely
- 12 Prepared Easter eggs
- 14 Wearing away
- 21 ... is not to reason why...
- 25 Pen contents
- 26 Inquired
- 27 Director ... Lee
- 28 Merlot & Tosé
- 29 Was nosy
- 30 Orange peel

- 31 Wed secretly
- 32 Of the kidneys
- 33 Actress Spacek
- 35 Sand mound
- 38 Located
- 39 Tiny fish in a can
- 41 To and ... back and forth
- 42 Breathe heavily
- 44 Pass, as time
- 45 Break in a kid's school day

- 47 Drop in on
- 48 Cool ... pie topper
- 49 Long sandwich
- 50 Shade trees
- 52 Place to buy sliced meat
- 53 Actor Annable
- 54 WWII honoree
- 55 Per person
- 59 Your, in the Bible



BRAIN CANDY

- » Lightning can heat the air around it to over 50,000°F in a few milliseconds.
- » If you hold a grain of sand up to sky, the area it covers contains as many as 10,000 galaxies.
- » Fish can shout at each other to be heard in noisy settings.
- » The tips of the blades on a wind turbine can move at 180 mph. That's faster than the winds in a category five hurricane.



Aquarius Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Your lover might boost your confidence this week. He or she may cheer you on as you work to develop one of your talents that you are insecure about sharing with others. You'll feel as if the sky is the limit. As long as you have your partner's support, it is.



Pisces Feb. 19 - March 20

Your social life might be messier this week than usual. If so, it's likely due to the fact that you're speaking your mind without any thought to how your words can make someone else feel. A little delicacy can go a long way! If you have been crushing on a friend, you might finally have the courage to speak up. A romantic gesture toward this person on Saturday might have an enchanting result.



Aries March 21 - April 19

A conversation between you and your partner might leave you feeling as if you're not supported at all as you try to achieve your more worldly ambitions. You might decide to keep your goals to yourself as a result. Ouch!



Taurus April 20 - May 20

The Moon will move through your true love sector Monday through Wednesday, offering you a gorgeous opportunity to feel emotional harmony with someone you're dating. Adding to the happiness

will be the fact that Mercury turns direct in Capricorn on Monday. You will be able to jumpstart your love life through mentally connecting with your sweetheart. Saturday will be divine—expect a romantic dream to come true.



Gemini May 21 - June 20

You can expect trouble this week in the communication department. Mercury will be at a harsh angle to both Pluto and Uranus, and since he'll just be turning direct, he may overreact in his zeal. You might be way too excited to discuss a financial situation with your mate and might come across as extremely pushy in order to get your way. Be aware.



Cancer June 21 - July 22

You'll want to be as delicate as possible as you communicate with your partner. He or she might easily fly off the handle, so do your best to remain calm as ideas are exchanged and opinions voiced. If you feel your partner is trying to force his or her position on you, try not to engage in an angry quarrel. You'll only regret it. The good news? Your spiritual connection will be strong on Saturday. Make the most of it.

horoscopes

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Leo July 23 - Aug. 22

This week you'll be certain that your sweetheart loves you just the way you are. Whatever personal improvements you seek out for yourself, you can be certain that your lover will do absolutely nothing to make you feel as if you truly need them. Now that's unconditional love at its finest.



Virgo Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

This week you can expect some good, bad and ugly when it comes to romance. If you've been going back and forth about a decision connected to your love life, you might feel as if clarity has finally found you. Unfortunately, you might not have any tact as you express yourself to your mate. Be aware! At least you can enjoy Venus kissing Neptune on Saturday. Enchanting romance will be yours for the taking.



Libra Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You'll have plenty of practice this week being the famous peace-maker that you are. It looks like at least one of your relatives plans to hash it out with your partner. While you'll want to avoid

being in the middle of a sticky situation, at the same time, you might not appreciate the level of disrespect someone in your clan is showing your mate. Intervene—tactfully, of course.



Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Communication on the job won't be smooth this week, but your love life will more than make up for any stress at work. You'll look to your lover to ease your frazzled nerves if you and a colleague hash it out. Your sweetheart will be there for you, and will be the voice of reason. He or she will encourage you to figure out a way to peacefully resolve whatever sticky situation you're handling.



Sagittarius Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

If you mix money and love this week, you'll surely regret it. Unfortunately, it might be time for you to lay down the law. Hopefully, the situation isn't as terrible as you might think it is. If, however, your lover is blatantly freeload off of you, you'll have to re-evaluate your situation. That isn't love—it's called being used.



Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Your mouth could get you in serious trouble this week—especially on the home front. You might say something to a relative you later regret. The good news is that if you find yourself in hot water with a family member, your lover may quickly come to your rescue. Be grateful.

red hot

THE DIGIT

12%

That's about how much *Winter Storm Jonas* cut into moviegoing this weekend. According to variety.com, the winter storm shut down theaters in New York City, Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Philadelphia on Saturday. "The Revenant" was the box-office winner this weekend with \$16 million. That's funny because that movie is set in basically a winter storm.

Deal for 'Labyrinth' film inked

In a move that is sure to result in more than 90 minutes of pure dumpster fire, The Jim Henson Co. has signed a deal for a new "Labyrinth" film. "Guardians of the Galaxy" co-writer Nicole Perlman will pen the script, according to thr.com. It's unclear if it will be a sequel or a reboot. Some things are just better left untouched.

HOT DATE

Feb. 6

That's when you should expect to see [Larry David](http://larrydavid.com) as host on "Saturday Night Live." According to vulture.com, this will be his first time hosting. The musical guest will be The 1975. David has been on the show twice this season to play presidential hopeful and everybody's grandfather Bernie Sanders.

More TV garbage

Fox has ordered a one-hour drama pilot for "The Exorcist," based on the 1971 novel that inspired the 1973 film. According to variety.com, the show will be a modern reinvention "following two very different men tackling one family's case of horrifying demonic possession." Sounds great. When are we going to get some more original TV shows?



THE QUOTE

"I'm just here 'cause he's promised me a spot in his cabinet. And I belong in a cabinet, 'cause I'm full of spice and I got a great rack."

—**Tina Fey**, as Sarah Palin on "Saturday Night Live" on Saturday. We've sure missed her.

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